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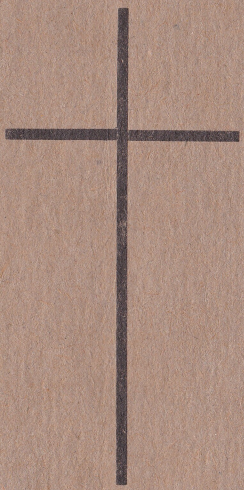
MILNROW

and

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
LITTLEBOROUGH

The Messenger



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75 Victoria Street,
LITTLEBOROUGH.

*

All news itmes etc., for January 1970 publication should be forwarded to the editor by:

14th December 1969

NO LATER PLEASE

"THE CROSS IS THE KEY"

Dear Friends,

With the mists of Michaelmas Market Madness just settling and the clouds of Centenary Fair taking over the sky, I write what is expected of this magazine: a Christmas message. It still seems a fair way off - but - at the moment of writing there is snow on the ground, and the scene could well be depicted on any Christmas card.

There can be nothing simpler than the Christmas message: GOD WITH US (Emmanuel). If anyone confuses the issue, it is us. We dress Christ up in tinsel and decorations. We adorn him with the clinks of our cash registers and the text: "Goodwill to all men, after you have treated yourself!" Christ was quite content to be alive - to be in full view to the world as the new born King, God's representative in the world arena. The singing and dancing in the inn passed him by and at the worst, kept him awake! What could be simpler than a baby.

This Christmas, we will sing all the traditional carols, and maybe a few new ones (if we are adventurous); the second chapters of St. Matthew and Luke will receive priority; and we will probably still hear preached the annual word that there is no room in the inn for Christ (when the innkeeper did find room). We may absorb it like human blotting paper, and it will make us happy in mind, body and spirit..... and we may have missed the whole point!

The coming of Christ to this world was and is a SHATTERING EXPERIENCE. God had a nerve - and an iron nerve - to do it. He did it, not to give us a nice pleasant feeling, but to bring us to our senses. He shatters our misconceptions, he displays our stupidity for all to see.
As we turn the corner into the seventies, we may see the Christ child with us in our misery and hurt on this planet. God is with us in a dug-out

in Vietnam, in a shantie in Shanghi, in dried milk in Biafra, in the earthquake in Yugoslavia, in a slum in Salford. God can still show us up. He can still give us the answer.... in Christ. Disturbing.....isn't it?

The peace, which we would wish for all men, we wish for all in our churches. I extend these Christmas Greetings on behalf of my wife and family, and on behalf of the officials of the churches. God bless you all.

Yours faithfully,

Glyn Jenkins

****

BAPTISMS

At Littleborough on the occasion of the 100th Church Anniversary (October 26th 1969), our minister officiating:

ANDREW DAVID VINCENT and JOHN HENRY VINCENT of 14 Salts Drive;

ANDREW DAVID GRIFFITHS of 63 Shore Mount;

PETER JAMES LAW of 122 Harehill Road.

".....for of such is the Kingdom of heaven.

****

FAMILY FILM SERVICE

The December Film is "THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT"

This will be shown:

At MILNROW - Sunday, December 14th at 2.45 pm

At LITTLEBOROUGH - Friday, December 19th at 7.45 pm.

CAROL SINGING

The Church Choir, with any available help from adults and children, will be going carol singing on Monday December 22nd from 6.30 pm. onwards. Names of people who would like a visit from the carollers should be given to the choir secretary Mrs. C. Hey.

****

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

A special meeting has been arranged for Thursday January 22nd 1970 at Ogden Baptist Church, to commence at 7.30 p.m., when the speaker will be Rev. Mike Wood of West Street Baptist Church. The subject will be announced later.

****

LADIES GUILD

What a jolly evening was spent on November 4th, when the speaker was Mrs. Lord of Littleborough, who is a specialist in the Lancashire Dialect. Her items ranged from a young man's impression of Handel's "Messiah" to "The day we took Grandma to Blackpool."

****

TOY SERVICE

Now is the time and opportunity for children to dispose of the toys they no longer want. These will be received during the service on Sunday morning December 7th, to be distributed later to the less fortunate children in the Rochdale area.

****

MICHAELMAS MARKET

The market has been and gone! But what has it left behind? We hope, when everything is finalised, a good profit.

The market got off to a good start with a splendid opening ceremony before a packed audience. Our minister introduced the Chairman, Joel Barnett M.P., who in turn introduced Miss Voilet Carson the well known TV star, who took great pleasure in declaring the market open after an entertaining speech.

Button holes were presented to the platform guests by Judith Roberts, John Lynch and Karen Mellor.

Mr. Alec Rae, for many years the secretary of the Church Spring Fair, was presented with a 16 piece coffee set by Miss Carson.

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Allan Roberts general secretary of the Michaelmas Market Committee.

"M.M." thank everyone for their support.

A tape recording of the entire opening ceremony was made by Mr. Jack Collins, and is available to anyone who missed the event through age or infirmity. Please contact Rev. G. Jenkins if you are interested.

****

Never esteem anything as of advantage to thee that shall make thee break thy word or lose thy self-respect.

Marcus Aurelious.

MICHAELMAS MARKET STOCK

Certain items of Christmas stock are still available, and we would appreciate your help in clearing certain itmes. Some itmes have been reduced.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS - 5 Boxes @ 10/- each
BULBS - 3 Bowls
CHRISTMAS CARDS - Various
" WRAPPING PAPER - 3d. per sheet (5 for 1/-)
CALENDERS (reduced)
BIRTHDAY CARD PACKS
PICTURES (reduced)
STATIONERY, GIFTS
PENS - 1/- each
SNAPPIES, SNAPWRAPS (reduced)
BALLOONS
CHRISTMAS SERVIETTES, CUPS, PLATES (reduced)

****

FAMILY CHURCH READING FOR THE CHRISTMAS COURSE

"GOD CAME IN CHRIST"
Luke's version of the Christmas Story

November 30th	Luke 1:	5 - 23	
December 7th	Luke 1:	26 - 38	
December 14th	Luke 1:	46 - 55	The Magnificat
		68 - 79	The Benedictus
December 21st	Luke 2:	1 - 14	
December 28th	Luke 2:	25 - 40	

Why not prepare ourselves for worship by reading them? These readings are for Milnrow. Littleborough will be found in the Family Church Booklet which will be used for the Sundays December 7th - 28th.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

SIDESMEN FOR MORNING WORSHIP

Dec.	7th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mr. C. Pearson
	14th	Mr. D. Fursey	Mr. R. Gillon
	21st	Counc.J. Harrison	Mr. J.Sandham
	28th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
Jan.	4th	Mr. J. Collins	Counc. I. Royle

DEACONS ROTA

		Afternoon service door stewards	Vestry duty
Dec.	7th	Mr. J. Emmott Mr. P. Whitehead	Mr. G. Whitworth
	14th	Mrs. A. Wilson Mr. J. Wild	Mr. K. Hey
	21st	Mr. H. Whitehead Miss M. Wood	Mrs. A. Whitworth
	28th	Mr. G. Whitworth Mr. K. Hey	Mr. A. Roberts
Jan.	4th	Mrs. N. Settle Mrs. A. Whitworth	Mr. P. Whitehead

COMMUNION ROTA

Dec.	7th	Mr. J. Wild	Miss M. Wood

CRECHE ROTA

Dec.	7th	Mrs. Whitehead
	14th	Mrs. Jackson
	21st	Mrs. Jones
	28th	Mrs. Hanson

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Dec.	7th	Mrs. W. Prince	Mrs. W. Holland
	14th	Mrs. Garside	Mrs. Collins
	21st	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. D. Hey
	28th	Mrs. Roberts	Mrs. Greenhalgh

Door stewards are requested to be on duty at least 15 minutes before commencement of service. This is VERY IMPORTANT.

****

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

December

Tues.	2nd	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild Christmas Party
Thur.	4th	7.30 pm.	Choir Practice
Sat.	6th	3.00 pm.	Primary Party
			Waddow Hall Conference
Sun.	7th	11.0 am.	Toy Service and Reception of C.C.W.M. Boxes.
		2.45 pm.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Communion)
Wed.	10th	7.30 pm.	Deacons Meeting
Thur.	11th	7.30 pm.	Choir practice
Sun.	14th	11.00 am.	Mr. J. Farraday J.P.
		2.45 pm.	Film Service (see page 3)
Fri.	19th	7.30 pm.	Choir practice
Sun.	21st	11.00 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins
		2.45 pm.	Carol Service
Mon.	22nd	6.30 pm.	Carols around the District (see page 4)
Wed.	24th	11.45 pm.	Christmas Eve Service
Sun.	28th	11.00 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
		2.45 pm.	Rev. G. Jenkins

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

Dec.	7th	Mrs. Taylor	Mrs. Emmott
	14th	Mrs. E. Prince	
	21st	Mrs. Stott	
	28th	-	
Jan.	4th	Mrs. Cudworth	Mrs. Howarth

Please note that from December 7th services will be held in the afternoon at 2.45 pm.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

December

Sat. 6th		Family Church Party
Sun. 7th	10.30 am.	Mrs. E. Gillon
Tues. 9th	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild (Mrs. Sanders)
Sun. 14th	10.30 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Toy Service
Sun. 21st	10.30 am.	To be announced
	6.00 pm.	Carol service (Rev.G. Jenkins) & Littleborough Public Band.
Thur. 25th	10.00 am.	Candlelight service
Sun. 28th	10.30 am.	Rev. G. Jenkins (Communion)

January 1970

Sun. 4th	10.30 am.	Mr. P. Whitehead
Thur. 8th	7.45 pm.	Men's Fellowship (Party)

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

Dec. 7th	Mrs. E. Holt
14th	Mrs. J.A. Leach
21st	Mrs. H. Jones
28th	Mrs. Mellor
Jan. 4th	Mrs. C. Hill

OFFERTORIES

October 26th	£18.	4.	6
November 2nd	£ 7.	2.	9
9th	£10.	0.	6

****

Conscience is throughly well-bred and soon leaves off talking to those who do not wish to hear it.

Samuel Butler.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

SIDESMEN

Dec.	7th	Mr. Beattie	Mr. Nairn
	14th	Mr. H. Hill	Mr. E. Holt
	21st	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. Brown 10.30 am
		Mr. A. Booth	Mr. F. Simpson 6.00 pm
	28th	Mr. W. Barker	Mr. F. Beattie
Jan.	4th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. H. Hill

DEACONS COMMUNION ROTA

Dec.	28th	Mrs. Hancock	Mr. Beattie

CRECHE ROTA

Dec.	7th	Aileen Radcliffe	Hilary Vincent
	14th	Pat Schofield	Dorothy Mallinson
	21st	Beryl Hartley	Enid Bancroft
	28th	Stella Moss	Sheila Smith
Jan	4th	Barbara Holt	Margery Holt

****

The 3d. bit collection officially closes on Sunday 14th December.
Please hand in all contents by this date.

The centenary fund closes on 31st December.

****

The Christmas Day service will commence at 10.0 am.
Please bring your own candles.
A service for all ages.

****

The Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.0 p.m.
The Littleborough Public Prize Band will be in attendance as usual.

****

CENTENARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Centenary week commenced on Sunday the 19th October, when the Junior Church presented a pageant "Discoveries and achievements over 100 years." The Junior choir sang an introit and an anthem, and all the scholars had some part to play. The evening service conducted by the Rev. Glyn Jenkins was "A Service of Song" when hymns chosen by members of the congregation were sung. Mr. L Greaves was the organist at both services.

We thank all those who loaned photographs - books - newspaper cuttings, etc., which helped to make the exhibition a success. This was open on Friday and Saturday morning and included a display of Visual Aids etc., under the title of "Teaching the modern child Christianity."

On Friday night Mr. W. Grimes gave an interesting talk illustrated with slides of many of the old houses and places of interest in and around Littleborough.

Our thanks to the "Busy Bees" for arganising the "Centenary Party and Dance" on the Saturday night, and the happy time enjoyed by all.

On Sunday 26th October the Rev. G. Jenkins conducted both services and at the morning service officiated at four baptisms. (quite a record). He also presented attendance prizes to children of the primary and junior church. In the evening the Chairman of the Littleborough U.D.C. Councillor Alfred Davies and Mrs. Davies along with the clerk and councillors were present. Mr. L. Greaves was again at the organ.

****

THE TOY SERVICE

We will be pleased to receive gilfts of toys - books - dolls on Sunday 14th December. These will be distributed to needy children by the Children's Welfare Officer, Rochdale.

****

LADIES GUILD

The Birthday supper held on November 4th was well attended. The president, Mrs. C. Hill read a story which was followed by a short business meeting, when arrangements were made about the coming fair and next years "Ladies Day". Supper was later served.

****

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The October meeting was an open night, when our minister presented a musical evening with some of the music he enjoys.
A good evening with supper served as usual.

****

THE FIRST SNOW

First snow falling
From the skies
Always takes us
By surprise
Like a bashful
Visitor
Pausing at the Seasons door.
It whispers through
The leafless trees
With delicate apologies
Until the children
Realise
It's snowing
And with happy cries
Go out to welcome once again
This frosty cousin of the rain.

R. H. Grenville

A TABLR TREAT FOR CHRISTMAS

TOFFEE SHERRIES

1 lb. Demerara Sugar
1½ gills water
(this is ¼ pt plus 4 tablespoonfuls)
2 level tablesp. of golden syrup.
1 teasp. vinegar.
4 oz. glace cherries
1½ ox. butter
A tin 7" square.

Brush the tin lightly with cooking oil.
Place the sugar, water, butter, syrup and vinegar into a pan and dissolve the sugar stirring occasionally.
When all the sugar has dissolved, bring the toffee to the boil, and boil it steadily without stirring until it is a good golden colour; it will take between ten and twelve minutes.
Take it off the heat, and put a few drops into a cup of cold water. It should form a firm ball when the toffee is ready.
Stir in the cherries and pour the toffee straight into tin and leave to set.
Mark it into pieces before it is completely hard.
When it is cold turn it out and cut or break it.

****

How's your sense of humour?

Extract from a recent letter from one of our nursing sisters in Orokolo Papua.

"We had fun yesterday. Jenny and I had to go to District Church Council. A lot of road had been washed away and so we had to leave the land-rover and walk about three miles. We decided to go along the beach. Unfortunately we went to the wrong side of an extremely large and deep area of mud, and so had to retrace our steps. Coming home it was a bit hilarious. There were six of us and it rapidly got dark. We had to find our way through the bush because the tide was in and we couldn't go via the beach. Finding the tracks in the dark is not easy, but we finally broke through to the land-rover.

To-day I had to go along a bad bit of road and fell off the bike. I found myself sitting in an almost waist deep puddle. I was smothered in mud so went down to the beach and sat in the sea to wash off the worst. It was quite a laugh. I must have looked very funny."

Set that in its proper context: flies, mosquitoes, heat, hunidity. A nurse working long hours and under great difficulties, and you get some idea of the spirit behind the words.

So it worth filling that little blue box!

We will be colling them at MILNROW on Sunday morning December 7th

****

The Sparrow Family

Miss Owl's Little pupils enjoy

A VERY HAPPY LESSON

"Now" said Mr Rook to his pupils one cold December day, "the last lesson this afternoon is going to be carol singing, and we will be joining Miss Owl's class and Miss Thrush's class in the hall, so that we can all sing together."

Sammy Sparrow and his friends were overjoyed. They loved singing - especially carols - so putting their books away, they scampered happily into the hall.

Everybody else was already there, and while Miss Owl handed out the little green carol books Miss Thrush put her music on the big brown piano that stood in the corner.

They sang lots of carols - old ones and new ones - and Sammy Sparrow was quite surprised to see Mr. Rook joining in merrily, as he turned Miss Thrush's music.

"But I thought he didn't like singing" he whispered to his friend.

"So did I" replied his friend, "but I expect Christmas carols are different."

The lesson passed very quickly, and Miss Owl's little pupils were sorry when it was time to go home to tea.

As they scampered home, Sammy and Susan sang snatches of their favourite carols: and inside their cosy homes the woodlanders listened with pleasure.

Good bye and a verry happy Christmas

****

LULLABY FOR A HOLY CHILD

By Ida Holmes-Moss

Sleep, baby mine;
Angel wings entwine
Round the manger bed -
Guarding your sweet head.

*

Sleep, little king
While the wise men bring
Gifts from afar -
Guided by a star.

*

Sleep, little love,
Sleep, my precious dove;
Rest, while you may -
Too soon comes the day.

****

A L L

O N

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